

Serial No.: Pending
Examiner: Hayes, Michael J.
Art Unit: 3763

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 51 remain in the application. By this amendment claims 1 and 51 have been amended, and claims 24-50 have been withdrawn.

The present application is a division of U.S. patent application serial number 09/955,623, filed on September 19, 2001 (parent application).

Election/Restriction Requirement

The patent office submits that the parent application contained claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1-23;
- II. Claim 24;
- III. Claims 25-48;
- IV. Claims 49-50; and
- V. Claim 51.

In the parent application, applicant elected Invention I, claims 1-23, for prosecution on the merits.

In the present divisional application, applicant elects Invention V, claim 51 for prosecution on the merits.

The patent office further submits that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

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Species 1 = Fig. 3
Species 2 = Fig. 5a
Species 3 = Fig. 5b
Species 4 = Fig. 6
Species 5 = Fig. 8
Species 6 = Fig. 9
Species 7 = Fig. 10
Species 8 = Fig. 11
Species 9 = Fig. 12
Species 10 = Figs. 13a, 13b
Species 11 = Figs. 18a, 18b
Species 12 = Fig. 19
Species 13 = Fig. 20

In response, applicant elects Species 1, Fig. 3 for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 15, 18 and 23 are readable on Species 1, Fig. 3, and remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to depend from claim 51. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 7, 8, 15, 18, 23 and 51 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such allowance.

Claims 4-6, 9-14, 16-17, 19-22 and 24-50 have been withdrawn at this time as being drawn to the non-elected inventions.

Applicant respectfully submits that the generic claim, claim 51, is allowable and requests consideration of claims 4-6, 9-14, 16-17 and 19-22 upon allowance of claim 51.

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Art Unit: 3763

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herein, applicant believes that all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such allowance. If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
McDermott, Will & Emery

11-3-03
Date: _____



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